



Figure 9.4: Typical example of a timeline.

You can make a time line on paper or in digital format in your answering sheet. A convenient way to make the time line digitally is by making it in the format of a table. The online exam system should allow you to make a table, but try this out during the mock exams that you sit beforehand in order to get acquainted with the peculiarities of the system. When making a time line on paper, you can consider using different colours to note events relating to e.g. different patent applications. In this way, you can visualise how the events relating to, for example, the competitor's first application and the competitor's second application occur timewise in relation to the events relating to the patent application of your client.

You should realise that the Examination committee when drafting Part D2 also employs a timeline. All events and filing dates of applications are carefully positioned in the timeline. Choosing a certain date has an effect.

The timeline is also an important tool for analysing priority situations and to see which published applications can be used as prior art under Art. 54(2) or (3) EPC. European patent applications becoming a so-called 'prior right' occur more often in Part D2 than in everyday life. A beloved situation in Part D2 is where an international application which has been filed in a language other than one of the three official languages of the EPO, could become an Art. 54(3) EPC document, because only a duly regionalised Euro-PCT application can be used as such (Art. 153(5) and Rule 165 EPC).